



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 14, 2004

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

JOSEPH A. VALIQUETTE
JAMES M. MARGOLIN
(212) 384-2715, 2720

**MANHATTAN MAN CHARGED BY U.S. IN SALE
OF OVER \$1 MILLION IN PIRATED COMPUTER SOFTWARE**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ALEX RODRIGUEZ, 27, of Manhattan, was indicted today on federal charges stemming from his alleged sale of, and supplying others with, more than \$1 million in pirated computer software in Manhattan.

According to the Indictment and a previously filed criminal Complaint, RODRIGUEZ operated a stand on East 14th Street in Manhattan from which he sold unauthorized copies of copyrighted computer software. According to the Indictment and Complaint, in July and August 2004, RODRIGUEZ, operating from this stand, twice sold pirated software to an undercover FBI agent. On one of those occasions, the Indictment and Complaint alleges, RODRIGUEZ sold an illegal copy of Macromedia Flash MX - a program related to Web site development that normally retails for approximately \$500 - to the undercover agent for \$30.

Additionally, according to the Complaint, RODRIGUEZ supplied illegal computer software to another individual who operated a stand on East 23rd Street in Manhattan and that individual supplied pirated computer programs to another individual who sold the illegal software over the Internet Web site, Cheap-Student.com, in 2003. The Indictment also alleges that the actual and intended losses from the criminal scheme exceeded \$1 million.

The Indictment charges RODRIGUEZ with one count of conspiracy to commit criminal copyright infringement and one count of criminal copyright infringement for selling more than 10 copyrighted software titles with a total retail value in excess of \$5,000.

If convicted of the charges set forth in the Complaint, RODRIGUEZ faces a maximum sentence on each count of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss from the offense.

Mr. KELLEY praised the outstanding efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's computer crimes squad. Mr. KELLEY also thanked the Business Software Alliance and Macromedia, Inc. for their assistance in the investigation of this case.

Mr. KELLEY said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

04-208

###